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SELA MEETING ON NUTRITION OPENS IN CARACAS

FL172235Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1603 GMT 17 Jul 78 FL

[Text] Governmental experts meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, to discuss the Latin American Economic System [SELA] have begun to examine the region's programs of organization. The discussions of representatives from 13 area governments will continue until 21 July, during which time they will hear recommendations submitted by a group of experts who in June examined the food supply situation in Latin America.

The meeting of governmental representatives will be held within the framework of the SELA action committee on food supplements. The experts' suggestions will be examined on 8 August by representatives of member countries of the action committee on food supplies having a high protein content.

The agenda of the governmental experts meeting, which was announced by the SELA permanent secretariat, includes nutritional programs being carried out in member countries of the action committee on this subject. Likewise, the demand for nutritional supplements in different sectors of the population will also be examined. The agenda also includes the analysis of the sale of nutritional supplements, taking into consideration the price of the product, handling and production costs.

The Caracas meeting will also hear an explanation on the new nutritional programs of member countries on intermediate and short-term bases, as well as state participation in such programs. They will also consider the use of soya instead of nutritional supplements having a high protein content.

CARICOM MINISTERS TO MEET IN JAMAICA

FL171500Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Jul 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Inter-regional trade, with particular emphasis on the implementation of the agreed rules governing trade between CARICOM members in regionally-produced goods, is expected to be the focus of the CARICOM ministers' 12th ministerial meeting opening at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston, on Monday.

Immediately after the conference is declared open by the prime minister, the Hon. Michael Manley, the delegates will discuss the effect on their economies of the action by Jamaica and Guyana to restrain imports.

At the same time, the meeting will examine the overall state of the economy of all the member-countries. It will also be seeking a firm decision on when the new "rules of origin" relating to goods being traded should come into effect.

This 12th CARICOM ministers' meeting takes place at a time when trading and production of goods by member-countries of the region have been put under severe strain.

Jamaica and Guyana, which earlier bought goods produced by the less developed countries (LDC's) of the region on a comparatively free basis, have found it necessary to restrain their purchases because of balance-of-payments problems in their own economies.

Several of the less-developed CARICOM member-states have invested in factories and other development projects in anticipation of a growing trade with their bigger partners in the region.

Jamaica's delegation to the two-day meeting will be headed by the minister of foreign affairs, the Hon. P.J. Patterson, and the minister of industry and commerce, Senator the Hon. Danny Williams.

A meeting of officials is due to be held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel tomorrow to finalize the agenda and other arrangements.

On Saturday morning, a meeting of the CARICOM oils and fats conference at ministerial level will also be held at the Pegasus Hotel to discuss the CARICOM treaty on this subject and recent developments in the industry.

A Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman described this conference as "purely agricultural". He said that while the treaty was effected to protect the coconut industry of the region, a situation had since developed where overall production was not now adequate to satisfy the area's needs.

MONTES WILL SEEK MODERATION AT NONALINED TALKS

PY140327Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2130 GMT 14 Jul 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jul--Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar A. Montes stated today that "Argentina's stand at the Belgrade meeting will be marked by moderation."

In an impromptu talk with journalists, Montes indicated that efforts will be made to have this spirit of moderation prevail in all recommendations and resolutions which may be adopted by the heads of government of the nonalined countries movement, who will begin meeting on 18 July and whom the foreign minister will address on 27 July. He said "we want to help this meeting achieve a rapprochement between developed and developing countries: something similar to the North-South talks held in Paris last year, but with greater chance of success." With regard to the [word indistinct] nonalined, the foreign minister stressed the significance for Argentina of the possibility of talking to 93 countries--2 of them represented by their foreign ministers--to present its demands concerning the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands and to defend its ideas concerning shared natural resources and the protection of Argentine sovereign rights in the Antarctic.

Montes, who will leave for Europe next Monday, also spoke about his trip to the Romanian capital on 19 July. There he and his counterpart, Stefan Andrei, will discuss bilateral relations, sign an economic cooperation agreement and talk about the possibilities of increasing exports. Admiral Montes is also scheduled to have a formal visit with Romanian Premier [as received] Nicolae Ceausescu. On his trip to Vienna, where he will arrive on 25 July and stay for 4 days, the foreign minister reasserted that he will hold a working meeting with Argentine ambassadors accredited to West European governments to analyze relations between Argentina and each of these countries and to propose solutions for whatever problems may appear. He also said that he will meet with his Austrian counterpart, Willibald Pahr, to set the stage for a future cultural agreement between Austria and Argentina.

FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTES CONTINUED INTEREST IN CORPUS

PY150306Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2320 GMT 14 Jul 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Jul--"Argentina's interest in the Corpus Dam has been clearly stated and nothing can change this," an Argentine Foreign Ministry spokesman stated tonight in response to journalists' questions concerning comments and reports released by the foreign press and international press agencies which could lead to confusion with regard to the status of the Corpus-Itaipu negotiations. The spokesman stressed the following:

"1. Argentina has always been, and still is, truly and constructively disposed toward reaching an agreement on this subject.

"2. Argentina has not received any official communication from Brazil with regard to that country's alleged decision to end the Itaipu-Corpus negotiations."

The spokesman concluded by saying that "Argentina continues to believe that the difference in interpretation which has taken place at this point of the negotiations--and which has given rise to an exchange of notes between the two foreign ministries--could be solved shortly and without much ado, since the negotiation itself provides the appropriate framework for solution of whatever misunderstanding may crop up."

O ESTADO URGES CARTER TO BE FIRM ON USSR TRIALS

PY141906Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Jul 78 p 1 PY

[From "Notes and Information" page: "Carter Should Not Exhibit Weakness or Hesitation"]

[Excerpts] The Kremlin is increasing pressure on the United States in all areas--nuclear agreements, expansionism in Africa and in the Arab lakes (Red Sea and Persian Gulf), and human rights. The simultaneous resumption of SALT negotiations and the initiation of the so-called show trials--"education trials" which are the most authentic Stalinist legacy--are proof that Moscow has purposefully decided to provoke the United States. Anatoliy Shcharanskiy is on trial in Moscow for "high treason and espionage;" Alexandr Ginzburg in Kaluga for supposed "anti-Soviet" activities; and Lithuanian Viktor Platkus, for the alleged "crime" of "anti-Soviet agitation." Thus the Soviets want to test President Carter's intentions of concluding a SALT II agreement and of implementing the resolutions of the Helsinki Conference's final act, which are binding for the USSR as well. An extremely serious fact is that with these simultaneous actions--which they consider to be in different categories and unrelated, in contradiction to the package deal they signed in Helsinki--the Soviets want to impose their ideas and their will on the United States, and particularly on Carter, by means of a diplomatic maneuver which has all the trappings of a decisive test of force.

It serves no good purpose to try to understand and explain--and consequently to tolerate--the challenges of Soviet diplomacy, which is conducted on three levels, according to the witty "theory of the three-layer cake." This theory has been explained hundreds of times by Brezhnev himself and by his aides in direct, unsophisticated terms. Their explanation is that detente--involving nuclear agreements, trade agreements, investment of U.S. capital in and transfer of U.S. technology to the Soviet Union--does not set aside class struggle in the national and international arena; does not forbid Soviet support for national liberation struggles in Africa and anywhere else; and does not allow for any interference in Soviet internal affairs, such as the surveillance on the observance of human rights throughout the Soviet empire. According to the Soviets, detente is a way of regulating nuclear competition to favor their strategic interests as well as trade and technological cooperation to allow them to catch up with U.S. industrial standards. For the Soviets, detente has nothing to do with the ideological struggle, because the USSR and its satellites have the right and duty to maintain their monolithic integrity and their armored structure, and, at the same time, the right and duty to assist with all possible means--money, arms, ammunition, instructors, wars, coups by proxy, and even parliamentary "fronts"--the communist or communist-leaning parties in accomplishing their aims of taking power in Europe and Africa, to serve the Soviet imperialist designs. But if the United States or the Western countries intervene asking for mercy on behalf of Soviet dissidents, they are accused of stretching the meaning of detente into the strictly forbidden area of ideology.

If the Western democracies accept this interpretation of detente, even under the euphemistic and involved label of a "three-layer cake theory," they will have surrendered even before the Soviet-stype detente has yielded all the possibilities envisioned for it by its designers in Moscow. In his nightmarish and apocalyptic vision of a nuclear holocaust, should President Carter persist in achieving his diplomatic objective of signing SALT II--thus forgetting the truth emphatically proclaimed by Raymond Aron that "a bad SALT II is worse than no agreement at all, particularly if its negotiation should expose the moral inferiority or weakness of the United States"--and should President Carter shrug his shoulders at the condemnation of Anatoliy Shcharanskiy, he will have personally lost all credibility before the American people and Senate. Worse yet, the United States will have lost, before its allies and its adversaries, all credibility and leadership.

JUDICIAL BRANCH WORKERS TO STAGE 24-HOUR STRIKE

PA180428Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Starting tomorrow, employees of the judicial branch will stage a 24-hour strike. The National Judicial Branch Association, after reiterating the call for a judicial branch strike, said that the strike will be observed, starting early in the morning, by some 20,000 officials in the country.

Association President Jaime Pardo Leal said that the drastic measure was adopted to protest against the government because of its neglect of the judicial branch employees who so far have not received the semester bonus or the salary increases decreed in April.

Pardo Leal said that the unbelievably discriminating manner in which the government has paid salary increases to government workers brought about the strike in the judicial branch and warned that if the strike to be held tomorrow against all the nation's courts is not heeded, then a strike will be held on 31 July for an indeterminate period.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Cesar Gomez Estrada said that the judicial strike called for tomorrow was subversive and irresponsible. The minister, in an open confrontation with the judicial branch employees, said that the decision adopted by the judicial association is an excuse to create chaos and disorder in the country.

It is disconcerting, Minister Gomez Estrada said, to see the judicial branch, which should give the country an example of discipline and good conduct, go on an unjustified strike. [Words indistinct] searching new salary increases, but under the present circumstances the judicial branch officials already have everything and there is no reason for this absurd decision, Minister Cesar Gomez Estrada said.

ELECTORAL RESULTS RELEASED FOR JUNE ELECTIONS

PA171500Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0413 GMT 17 Jul 78 PA

[All figures as received]

[Text] Bogota, 16 Jul (AFP)--The electoral court reported here today that Colombian President-elect Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala received 150,000 more votes than Conservative candidate Belisario Betancur in the 4 June elections.

The National Civil Registry Office issued a bulletin tonight regarding the final votes cast throughout the country in the 4 June presidential elections. There was a total of 5,074,481 votes cast in the elections which were distributed as follows:

Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala (Liberal)	2,536,081
Belisario Betancur (Conservative)	2,356,081
Julio Cesar Pernia (Communist)	97,234
Alvaro Valencia Tovar (National Renewal Movement)	65,961
Jaime Piedrahita (Maoist)	27,059
Regina Betancur de Liska (Independent)	126
Socorro Ramirez (Socialist)	1,643
Blank votes	9,923
Nil votes	6,641

ROLDOS AGUILERA PRESERVES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LEAD

PA180212Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0130 GMT 18 Jul 78 PA

[Text] The following is a list giving the latest figures in the presidential and vice presidential elections in the country:

Dr Jaime Roldos Aguilera:	452,699 votes
Sixto Duran Ballen:	340,447 votes
Dr Raul Clemente Huerta:	321,327 votes
Dr [Rodrigo] Borja:	162,542 votes

Abdon Calderon Munoz, of the Alfarist Radical Front, 130,725 votes; [Rene] Mauge, the candidate of the Communist Party, 75,277 votes.

Lacks Absolute Majority

PA171305Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpts] Quito, 17 Jul (LATIN)--Populist candidate Jaime Roldos today appeared to be the virtual winner in the presidential elections held yesterday in Ecuador, but his plurality will necessitate a new election to determine the future chief of state.

"I will extend my hand toward national harmony, but I will also maintain a firm hand to implement the law and enforce fundamental rights and guarantees so that social justice can prevail in Ecuador," Roldos said in a television appearance.

Yesterday, Ecuadoreans also elected 19 provincial prefects, 24 mayors (intendants) and over 500 members of various communal deliberating bodies who did not require an absolute majority.

Even before the vote count was suspended, political circles began speculating about the interparty alliances that would surely take place for the second round in which, regardless of who wins, Huerta and Duran will run together. [as received] For his part, Roldos, who early this morning declined to make any statement, will be endorsed at least by Borja's Democratic Left, with which he shares some political affinity. Although lacking any previous commitment, he would also be endorsed by the leftwing sectors and the Alfarist Radical Front. According to various political sources, if this happened Roldos might achieve an easy victory against Duran and Huerta.

Roldos' presidential ticket includes another young lawyer, 39-year-old Christian Democrat Osvaldo Hurtado. Like Roldos, Hurtado is a young populist intellectual.

The legal provisions that prohibited Bucaram from running, which have been described as having being "dedicated" [dedicatoria], have led to recent rumors about eventual military resistance to Roldos. Apparently referring to these rumors, the young candidate today affirmed: "I do not think anybody in this country should feel uneasy about a Jaime Roldos administration. Our government will be one of national concord; economic development and social justice will be its two main objectives."

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal will set the date for the second voting within 30 days after proclamation of yesterday's election results.

NO CASUALTIES IN ATTACK ON ROLDOS' HOME

PA171452Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1438 GMT 17 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpts] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 17 Jul (AFP)--The home of Jaime Roldos Aguilera, the populist presidential candidate, was fired upon early this morning by a group of unidentified persons, according to a local radio station. The group that fired on the home of the populist leader from a moving automobile was composed of five persons. Nobody was wounded in the attack.

This is the first time since the opening of the presidential campaign in Ecuador that there has been an attack on any of the persons seeking the post of chief executive.

GOVERNMENT CLOSES 'RADIO VISION' FOR 24 HOURS

PA171402Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1252 GMT 17 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 17 Jul (LATIN)--The local radio station "Radio Vision" was closed for 24 hours for spreading false news concerning the health of a presidential candidate.

During its coverage of the elections held yesterday in Ecuador, the station said that Liberal presidential candidate Raul Clemente Huerta had suffered a heart attack. Last night it was officially announced that the report was denied by Huerta himself. Since the station did not have any evidence to back it up, the Ministry of Government decided to apply the sanction.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES PRAISE ELECTORAL PROCESS

PA180309Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0239 GMT 18 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpts] Quito, 17 July (EFE)--The six presidential candidates in Sunday's Ecuadorean presidential election today concurred in their praise for the way in which the voting took place and the way in which the vote count is being carried out.

The candidate in the lead, (populist) Jaime Roldos, has stated: "The people shall win. The results must be respected."

Sixto Duran Ballen, of the center-right, has noted the high civic attitude shown by the Ecuadorean people who, en masse and in an orderly fashion, voted in the elections.

Social democrat Rodrigo Borja also referred to the large number of voters and favorably commented on the successful holding of the elections.

Rene Mauge (Communist) has noted: "The people have confirmed their democratic will. There are good prospects for the Leftwing Broad Front."

Abdon Calderon, of the Alfarist Radical Front, has stated: "The people have responded, as they always do, with a demonstration of their innate feelings of liberty and democracy."

Raul Clemente Huerta (center-left) has commented: "The country has shown the will to return to a state of law. A new generation has, for the first time, exercised its civic right."

INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS PHYSICIAN TO EXAMINE LAINO

FY141501Y Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Jul 78 FY

[Text] Regarding the Laino case, Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro said that a medical examination will be authorized to discount rumors that Laino was physically ill treated. Reliable sources report that a medical team appointed by the International Red Cross stationed in Buenos Aires is due to arrive today.

PLRA STATEMENT DISPUTES CASE AGAINST LAINO

FY142159Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 14 Jul 78 p 10 FY

[Text] In view of remarks made by the interior minister which were taken up by the Colorado Party executive board's radio program today, the executive board of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] states:

1. That Dr Laino could not have been arrested by court order. Party lawyers requested information from the trial record entitled: "Ricardo Lugo and Others, Violation of Law No 209" after the detention and no order against him is to be found in the record. In addition, it is recorded that there is a definite and executive sentence and that those sentenced have served the sentence which was imposed on them. To revive it would be a monstrous legal scandal, in view of the fact that no reservation linked with Laino is recorded in the sentence.

2. That the conditions under which the detention was carried out--it was unanimously termed a kidnaping--and the subsequent categorical denial by officials that the government had a hand in it, prove with absolute certainty that it is a question of political persecution and a new act of vengeance.

3. That it is absolutely false that legal measures could not be taken while Laino was a deputy. Actually, if there had been any presumption that he was guilty, the judge had the unavoidable obligation of requesting that the Chamber of Deputies deprive him of his privileges. As was the case with former Deputy Arnulfo Arturo Gill. On the other hand, it has now been more than 3 months since Laino was a deputy and it is only now, after he attended the OAS assembly and made remarks about human rights, that the government remembers the already closed trial record.

4. That his being held incommunicado is further evidence that the detention was not made through a court order.

5. That if, despite the absolute truth of our assertions, an alleged court order should emerge with a prior date, it will have been forged and antedated.

6. That we emphatically deny that Laino has any connection with extreme leftist groups or activities which are illegal. All the assertions on this topic have exactly the same veracity as that photocopy of a deposit slip, circulated widely by government agents and exhibited in the Chamber of Deputies, which was intended to prove Laino had received money from a Soviet diplomat. This maneuver was broken by written evidence from the president of the union of Swiss banks to the effect that there was no deposit in Laino's name.

Consequently, the document which was intended to destroy his reputation and background was totally false--a falseness which was also stressed by a committee of honor composed of outstanding legal experts Luis de Gasperi, Victor B. Riquelme, Salvador Villagra Maffiodo, Carlos Amarilla Fretes and Federico Callizo.

7. That any attempt to bring Laino to trial will have the same significance as the trials currently underway against the Soviet dissidents, which have provoked the most firm condemnation of the democratic world.

HOY FAULTS THREAT OF AID, CREDITS CUTS

PY142236Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 14 Jul 78 p 11 PY

[Editorial: "Black and White"]

[Text] During the recent unfortunate episodes which pitted Paraguayans against Paraguayans, dividing them into pro- and anti-Yankee groups because of special circumstances, the conduct of the U.S. ambassador has been fluctuating between black and white, light and dark. This does not leave any possibility for a hoped-for solution unless we comply with the conditions which he implicitly expressed during his recent press conference.

In the view of the diplomatic representative of one of the greatest friends Paraguay has had since the "Hayes decision," things are now becoming very difficult. And all because of those blessed human rights, which the administration which named him ambassador to our country has been crusading for for more than a year. During that period there have been preliminary discussions and disputes regarding the United States' authority to demand respect for human rights when it is possible to find numerous blemishes within its own territories and in its actions abroad, as we have discussed in editorials before. This could have determined the general reaction to his criticism when he said: "The communications media, as well as the Colorado Party, through its radio programs, has been trying by all means to disrupt our frank, sincere relations by insulting me, my country, my people, and my government's foreign policy."

Freedom of expression, zealously defended by the most distinguished human rights supporters, is one of these rights. We suppose that human rights also includes the freedom to demonstrate and express opinions in the street, as happened a few days ago in front of the diplomatic mission headed by Ambassador White. He called that event an example of free democratic expression, proof of the respect (or improvement) of human rights here. Perhaps this was before he felt the impact of certain objects which he said were thrown at him. It may have been because of these projectiles that within 24 hours he changed his mind and admitted the possibility of an official U.S. protest and that it is unlikely that military and economic aid to this country will continue.

But maybe that's not the reason for his opinion. Maybe he believed that the demonstration at the embassy's door--similar to many others which have occurred throughout the world with much more violence--was dictated by official circles, with such measures as police support, traffic direction and traffic light coordination. In addition, the demonstration was held at the precise moment when other public events were supposed to take place which had been suspended or postponed for one reason or another.

Since there is no other alternative, he must have understood that the demonstration was an answer to his personal intervention in the case of the awkward street arrest of a political dissident who had just arrived from the United States. Only after a few days of police detention was it revealed that the dissident had a case pending in court. White must have thought that a mere summons to appear before the judge would have avoided that whole alarming street incident which precipitated the tense situation we are now experiencing.

We are walking the thin line which determines when all this becomes interference in the internal affairs of other countries--which in turn has a close direct relationship with the economic strangulation of regimes questioned about their human rights policy. It is true that the United States has every right, whenever it wishes, to suspend the military and economic aid it offers--which usually has to be paid for dearly with unconditional support for its foreign policy. However, the situation changes when the United States pretends to interfere in the awarding of credits necessary for continued development, through the use of voting and veto rights granted because of its role as principal shareholder.

Strictly economic matters should not be based on political matters, nor likes or dislikes, but on whether one is a good or bad payer.

In addition, this is playing a dangerous game since the development of a country cannot be restricted by the mere cancellation of aid and credits, when others are only waiting for an affirmative answer to provide what some refuse, or threaten to refuse.

It is, therefore, a matter of light and dark, blacks and whites, and of very easy conceptual misunderstanding.

BRIEFS

LOAN REQUEST--Asuncion, 13 Jul--Paraguay will request a loan on the order of $700,000 from the financial fund of the River Plate Basin, whose executive committee will begin to meet on 20 July in Sucre, Bolivia. This loan is intended for construction of a road linking Pozo Hondo, located on the banks of the Upper Pilcomayo River, to Mariscal Estigarribia, on the Transchaco highway. In the near future this road would acquire great geopolitical importance by permitting interconnections with northern Argentina and southern Bolivia. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1515 GMT 13 Jul 78 PY]

JAPANESE LOAN FOR COMMUNICATIONS--The Central Bank will provide the National Telecommunications Administration with 3.9 billion yen under a contract signed with the Japanese overseas fund. The loan will be used for the installation of satellite communications. [Asuncion Radio Paraguay in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Jul 78 PY]

GOVERNMENT GRANTS 'BROAD' POLITICAL AMNESTY

PV151334Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jul 78 PY

[Text of official communique 008-78 issued 14 July 1978 by Prime Ministry Secretariat]

[Text] The revolutionary government of the armed forces, in accordance with its humanitarian and Christian policy, its concern for solving the problems affecting the various sectors of society, and its constant determination to achieve harmony among all Peruvians, has decided on the following measures:

1. To grant a broad political amnesty so that the transfer process, which begins with the establishment of the Constituent Assembly, can continue to develop within a climate of authentic democratic freedom.

2. To create a broadly represented commission to be presided over by the prime minister and designed to search for an immediate and effective solution to the problems of teachers through dialog.

The revolutionary government reasserts its respect for human rights, its belief in the policy of dialog to overcome conflicts, and its determination to reach a national understanding designed exclusively to benefit Peru. The government is confident in the understanding and calm of all Peruvians to preserve social peace so that when school activities resume, the teachers, students and parents will fully undertake their moral responsibilities which, for the country, means not hindering the integral formation of future generations, especially now that we are in the process of drawing up the Constitution which will structure the Peru we all hope for. Lima, 14 July 1978; General Secretariat of the Prime Ministry

Exiled Leader Returns

PA162217Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1910 GMT 16 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 16 Jul (AFP)--Hugo Blanco, former guerrilla and leader of the Trotskyite Peasant, Student and Workers Popular Front (FOCEP), returned today to Peru following the political amnesty decreed 2 days ago by the military government.

Blanco, who obtained the largest number of votes among the leftist candidates in the election for the Constituent Assembly scheduled to be installed on 28 July, was deported together with 12 other political leaders following the general strike in May.

Blanco, who was in Sweden, was the second exiled leader to return to the country after (ret) Gen Leonidas Rodriguez, president of the Socialist Revolutionary Party (PSR). The other leaders in exile are expected to return in the next few days.

Upon arrival in Lima, where he was greeted by thousands of sympathizers, Blanco said that FOCEP will not enter into any pact with the Luis Bedoya's ultraright Popular Christian Party or with Victor Raul Haya de la Torre's American Revolutionary Popular Alliance. He called for a union of the left instead. He added that he does not believe in the Constituent Assembly and that the problems the country is currently facing "will be solved in the streets and labor centers."

Half a dozen of the candidates elected to the Constituent Assembly were among the deportees.

APRA WINS MOST SEATS IN RECENT ELECTIONS

PA152256Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1839 GMT 15 Jul 78 PA

[all figures as received]

[Text] Lima, 15 Jul (EFE)--Today APRA officially became the foremost political force in the country. This was announced by the National Electoral Court today as it finished counting the votes cast on 18 June to choose the assembly that will draw up a new constitution for Peru.

The American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA] won 1,241,174 votes out of a total of 3,511,895 valid votes in the whole country and 37 seats in the Constituent Assembly, which will convene on 28 July.

Second after APRA came the Popular Christian Party of former Lima Mayor Luis Bedoya with 835,295 votes and 25 seats.

The Peasant, Student, and Workers Popular Front came in third with 443,413 votes and 12 seats.

These results confirm the unofficial returns disclosed on the day of the election.

Next in number of votes are the Revolutionary Socialist Party with 232,520 votes and six seats and the Communist Party with 207,612 votes and six seats; Peruvian Democratic Unity [as received] with 160,741 votes and four seats and the National Front of Workers and Peasants with 135,522 votes and 4 seats; Christian Democratic Party with 83,075 votes and 2 seats, National Union with 74,137 votes and two seats, and Peruvian Democratic Movement with 68,619 votes and two seats.

The Socialist Revolutionary Action with 20,164 votes and the Peruvian Reformist Democratic Party with 19,594 votes did not win any seats in the Constituent Assembly.

RADIO VISION CLOSED FOR TRANSMITTING FALSE INFORMATION

PA162249Y Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 2229 GMT 16 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Quito--Radio Vision of this capital was closed today by higher authorities for transmitting false information concerning the health of one of the presidential candidates, which could have resulted in serious consequences.

Therefore, the office of National Public Information has called on all social communication media to abstain from transmitting unconfirmed information or reports supplied by unreliable sources.

CHILEAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO VISIT

PY141314Y Lima Radio La Cronica in Spanish 1155 GMT 14 Jul 78 PY

[Text] Lt Gen Gustavo Leigh Guzman, Chilean Air Force commander in chief, will arrive in Lima on a 4-day official visit on 3 August. This was reported by Francisco Bulnes Sanfuentes, Chilean ambassador to Peru, who added that General Leigh Guzman will meet with high-ranking officials of the revolutionary government.

PCM CRITICIZES SOVIET SENTENCES AGAINST DISSIDENTS

PA171556Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0118 GMT 17 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Jul (AFP)--The Mexican Communist Party [PCM] described here today as an "erroneous political decision" the death penalty given to Soviet Anatoliy Filatov.

In a press communique issued by the Central Committee, it was said that considering the degree of maturity reached by the Soviet society, the sentence against Filatov carries only negative consequences for the development of the struggle for democracy and socialism.

The oldest party in Mexico made the above statement in reference to what it called a new anti-Soviet and anticommunist campaign that has given scandalous treatment to the trials and sentences recently carried out in the Soviet Union.

An executive commission of the PCM Central Committee noted, however, that revolution and socialism cannot be endangered by the [word indistinct] of this "traitor and spy" or by groups of this kind which are recruited by imperialism.

Regarding the sentences of Shcharanskiy, Ginzburg and Petkus, it stated that their "exaggeration is self-defeating [words indistinct] the anti-Soviet campaign orchestrated by imperialism and damage the struggle of communists throughout the world for peace, democracy and socialism."

Acknowledging the right of the Soviet state to process those who violate its laws, the PCM (?strongly) stated that in view of its responsibility before the international communist movement, it urges the Soviet state to rectify [rectificar] the [death] penalty of Anatoliy Filatov and the jail terms of Shcharanskiy, Ginzburg and Petkus.

Jewish Youths Demonstrate

PA180143Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2345 GMT 17 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Jul (AFP)--Six Jewish youths chained themselves to the iron fence surrounding the Soviet Embassy in this capital during a demonstration protesting what they called a repressive policy against human rights and the trials of Jewish immigration activists in the USSR.

During the demonstration a hundred youths, members of the Israeli Central Committee of Mexico, demanded respect for the human rights of the national minorities in the USSR.

The youths especially demanded the release of Ida Nudel, Vladimir Slepak, Grigoriy Goldstein, Iosif Begun, Alexandr Ginzburg and Anatoliy Shcharanskiy and immediate authorization for them to immigrate to Israel.

They also demanded the suppression of what they called prefabricated trials and compliance with the Helsinki agreement, to which the USSR is a signatory.

U.S. USES PANAMA TO MOVE CLOSER TO CUBA

PA171820Y Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jul 78 PA

[From "Resumen Informativo" program with Julito Ortega and Ramon Pereira Jr]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] The rumor has been circulating among Panamanian business sectors that President Carter is interested in using Panama as a means of moving closer to Cuba. This is what is being rumored.

[Pereira] What do you mean?

[Ortega] A group of businessmen is now being encouraged to go to Cuba to participate in the communist youth congress. After that, another tour of Panamanian businessmen is being organized or promoted, this time to several Third World countries. According to the directorate of--I think it is--the National Council of Private Enterprise, General Torrijos is interested in including businessmen in these visits to Third World and communist countries because through this relationship President Carter hopes to achieve a softening of the relations with Cuba, since Fidel Castro is reportedly desperate to establish good relations with the United States and to throw in the towel. That would represent a new change in international policy.

In connection with those visits to Third World countries, I have also learned that there is special interest in visiting two African copper-producing countries. This interest also extends to Chile. What really seems to lie behind this affair, visit or plan is the desire to find connections to promote the Cerro Colorado investment.

This tangle has not been resolved. It would be a very good idea if, before jumping at the idea of visiting the communist countries so they can be used as propaganda, Panamanian businessmen would find out from the State Department if there really is any interest in having our businessmen act as international Robin Hoods who will bring about rapprochement between Fidel Castro and Carter. Otherwise, I do not see the purpose or the way in which they might contribute to improving U.S.-Cuban relations when the latter's decisions depend on the Kremlin.

I think that more than anything this rumor is being circulated in order to make certain things, whose purpose is quite different, look rosier. So this morning I am fulfilling my duty by alerting everyone to what is being said.

Rumors have been circulating to the effect that General Torrijos will visit Cuba shortly to act as a mediator in this softening of relations between the United States and Havana.

MATUTINO LAUDS PRESENT GOVERNMENT, CRITICIZES CALL FOR STRIKE

PA141200Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 12 Jul 78 p 4A PA

["Bitacora de la Redaccion" column]

[Text] The revolutionary process has no reason to be trapped into a defensive position by the small and decadent group that has been trying to undermine its strength and development for the past 10 years.

There is no reason why a process which, with the support of the people, has been overcoming step by step, difficult times, aggravated by destabilizing campaigns, including artificial economic recessions, should be on the defensive.

For 10 years the most abject and criminal tactics have been directed against the revolution and its leaders and continue despite the policy of tolerance, understanding and forgiveness.

They continue and have become more open and challenging, to the point of speaking of an "overthrow" and "civil war" in open provocation, using the revolution's democratic system as a shield.

While it is true that their lack of importance and the lack of support given by the people has led the revolution to ignore them, we must note that it appears that the frustrated and desperate are becoming more aggressive.

Now they want to trap all Panamanians in a call to strike. It is appropriate at this time to hear the opinions of those economic groups which have never been affected by the revolution and have derived great benefits from the democratic system of government reigning in the country.

These should be taken into consideration, especially now that the revolution is advancing firmly and increasing its appeals for unity and work under a system that has proven its efficiency in the 10 years of revolutionary process.

Because the revolutionary government has been open and clear in its principles and norms, in its objectives and goals, it is appropriate that at this time, when these decadent persons are seeking chaos and violence, just as they did in 1968, clear positions be established which will brook no confusion.

The revolutionary process is based on thought and action, and when faced with sedition has the obligation of confronting it. This is the principle and norm of all democratic governments. It is one thing to act and participate in the modernization of the country's life and institutions and another to try to destroy it.

And, although the misguided aims of the decadent have not found they support there is no reason to ignore some communiques, pronouncements and charges against the system, the revolution and its leaders, which basically seek destabilization and disorder, although they are not identified with the frustrated decadent persons.

MATUTINO ATTACKS RIGHTIST ANTICOMMUNISM

PA141408Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 12 Jul 78 p 4A PA

[Artilce by Miguel Montiel: "The Torrijos Party"]

[Excerpt] Discussions about human rights are WORTHLESS AND ONLY FORMAL TALK IF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BASIS NECESSARY TO MAKE THEM A REALITY FOR ALL ARE NOT CREATED

This is precisely the content of President Carter's human rights campaign which has been echoed in Panama by some traditional political parties and groups. The Arnulfists, the Liberals, the Christian Democrats and the Independent Lawyers have failed to say anything POSITIVE about the economic needs of the people. They have talked about eqaulity, liberty, and justice, but only formally and juridically. Their specific economic interests keep them from going any further and from proposing POPULAR SOLUTIONS to the problems of the masses. History tells us what we can expect from them: nothing positive but much that is negative. Regardless of their human rights campaign, ALL OF THEM HAVE ATTACKED THE PROGRESSIVE MEASURES AND ACHIEVEMENTS of the regime.

They have attacked the educational reform because, according to them, it is communistic. They have attacked the labor code because, according to them, it is also communistic. They have attacked the peasant settlements because, again according to them, they are communistic. They have attacked labor organizations because, according to them, they are communist controlled. They have attacked the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives because of its popular nature. They have attacked sugar mills, hydroelectric plants and copper and cement projects. In other words, THEY HAVE ATTACKED STATE ENTERPRISES AS A WHOLE because they go against "sacred private enterprise."

The fact is that, as in the past, an anticommunist campaign is being used to confuse the people and to make them think about ideological confrontations in order to hide the fact that this process has brought social and economic recovery that during oligarchic governments was always denied to the workers.

This is why they say that this is a communist government, something that is absolutely FALSE. It is regrettable that the Panamanian Catholic Church, with its tremendous spiritual influence, has joined this anticommunist campaign, as evidenced by its pastoral letter which is in its TOTALITY A POLITICAL DOCUMENT, even if our bishops do not like that. I am saying this with all due respect I have for the church.

We trust that the Panamanian Christians WILL CLEARLY SEPARATE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FROM STRICTLY RELIGIOUS PROBLEMS. We should not let ourselves be confused by the politicians' parties or anticommunist campaigns disguised as human rights campaigns, or ultraleftist language, since in the end they all go against the interests of the workers.

To the masses, equality, liberty, fraternity and real and effective justice means the capacity to have equal health benefits for all, a home for every family, jobs, education and culture for all, land to work and drinking water for all and not just words.

Now that the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties has concluded a phase in our national liberation struggle, the Panamanian process--a struggle for our effective and real human rights--IS ENTERING THE PHASE IN WHICH THE SOCIAL FORCES THAT HAD FOUGHT TOGETHER NOW DEFEND THEIR OWN CLASS INTERESTS, as happened with the British revolution of 1640, U.S. independence in 1776, and the French Revolution of 1789. We would like to be able to say that it is not this way, that it will not be this way, but we would be only fooling ourselves and ignoring scientific laws about historical and social developments. Worse yet, we would be IGNORING THE FACTS PRESENT IN THE COUNTRY AT THIS MOMENT.

It is no secret that private enterprise believes that the Canal Zone must not be recovered under state auspices, but under a classic private enterprise system. It is no secret that they are AGAINST "making the greatest possible collective use" of the canal and the Canal Zone; that they are AGAINST "the housing laws of October 1973"; AGAINST the agrarian reform, the labor code, the state enterprises, the educational reform, the price control office and the agriculture and livestock marketing institute. In general, they are AGAINST all the historically progressive achievements of this regime. To realize this, it will not only suffice to read the communiques and listen to the statements issued by the Panamanian Business Executives Association, the National Council of Private Enterprise, the Panamanian Industrialists Union, the Panama Chamber of Construction, and the association of real property owners, ranchers, rice producers and so on.

For this reason, faced with the constant plots against the present process, we proposed in previous articles the formation of a popular front that would comprise all the social forces that believe in deepening the process and are ready to defend it. Today, we support the government's decision to form a political party.

We support it with that spirit of defense and of deepening of the process and of its historically progressive achievements.

This party must then be a PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL PARTY and never a party of cheap politics or a party that will persecute ideologies as ALL the others have done through their anticommunism.

ARIAS TOURS HERRERA, LOS SANTOS

PA180347Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 17 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpts] Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, three-time president of Panama and three times overthrown, ended a 2-day tour through Herrera and Los Santos provinces yesterday. While Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos was also in Herrera, the former president began a tour through 11 Herrera Province communities.

The speeches made by Dr Arias were primarily directed toward criticizing the current government with harsh and insulting phrases. He stressed an anticommunist tone in statements such as: We will achieve the fall of the communists who have been ruling this country. He made this statement in Santa Maria on 15 July. He continued this same tone when he referred to the foreign orientation of some ideas. In Limon, a very small town in Herrera Province, Dr Arias said: We do not need Moscow or Havana; we do not need them to rule the country.

In Parita, the welcome for Dr Arias did not go as planned since they found a small demonstration in support of Torrijos and people carrying placards with the chief of government's photo.

The political activities of the Panamenist Party in Herrera Province ended at 2020 when Dr Arias arrived at the Union Park of Chitre. Hundreds of persons had been waiting for him for several hours since the program was scheduled to start at 1800.

All these occasions were utilized by the Panamenists to stress the call for opposition political activity. However, at no time was there mention of an alternative government political program or proposals to solve the specific problems of the peasant sector of these provinces.

The tour, in which he was always accompanied by the leaders of Christian Democracy, continued in Guarare where he was welcomed by a folk band playing the traditional songs of the Panamenist Party. The speakers in Guarare included Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, of Christian Democracy, who harshly criticized the predetermined elections of 6 August. He said he was sorry to see the politization of youths and children in support of a dictator.

Since we believe that Dr Arias' speech in Ocu is representative of the nature and tone of each of the speeches he delivered in the communities of Herrera and Los Santos, we are going to broadcast that speech: [begin recording]

Friends of Ocu and nearby areas: Although many of you may not know it, we are standing in a historic land. It is a historic land because this is where Panamanian (?folklore) was born. I remember perfectly well that in our campaign of 1941, I had some students wear the Montuno and the Pollera [Panamanian national costumes]. The oligarchs of Panama were ashamed to wear them. [applause] In that same year, my entire cabinet and the important government officials put on Montunos and we proudly passed in front of the Union Club of the oligarchs so that they could see that the Montuno and the Pollera were what should exist in our country. [applause] Since then, the popularity of folk music has increased and the musicians of the interior can earn thousands of dollars at dances by playing Panamanian music and not the foreign music of Havana, Chile or any other country. You historians remember this. This is where folklore was born and it will exist forever in our fatherland while a Panamanian heart beats.

I am deeply thankful for this great demonstration of the Ocu family which I esteem so much and which has done so much since the time of Porras. Here are the descendants of the Alba, the Castillo, the Carrizo, the Castillero families and many others. All of you are going to have an extraordinary opportunity because we must continue educating, as I said in my speech on 10 July 1978 when we arrived in Panama and were welcomed by 250,000 persons. They were not welcoming my humble person. They were welcoming hope, faith and the constant idea that Panama must change and remove the shameless and disreputable dictatorship of drugs. [shouts of "down with the drug traffickers"] Yes, down with the drug traffickers. [shouts of "down"] I want you to know that just as in 1941 when we (?divided) 45 family properties and when each peasant of that time had his plot of 15 to 20 hectares and could raise his cow, calf, hog, chickens and turkeys, we are in the future again going to return and recover all these lands that have been stolen from the peasants and return them to their real owners. [applause] Each peasant, each citizen of the republic should have his own property and full right to give his family a roof, food and good schools. Any of these children can be president of the republic as long as they have the education that my father and mother gave me. [applause]

Therefore, continue with the deep commitment of changing this shameless, traitorous and scoundrelly government and let us again return to the democratic peace we have always had, with full freedom to elect our representatives--but not these representatives who, it gives me pity to see that the poor things have sold out since they have to eat. [sentence as heard] [applause] Onward, friends, and we will see each other in the future, if not myself because I only have a few years then some of these individuals here who will continue the program that our friend Dr Alba has described. Thank you very much. [end recording]

The following day, Sunday, in Guarare, Los Santos Province, Itzel de Rangel obtained an interview with Dr Arias. This was Dr Arias' first meeting with a Panamanian journalist since he returned from exile. However, the interview was extremely brief since the Panamenist leader only answered one question and immediately ended the interview. Here is the recording of Dr Arias' brief statements: [begin recording]

[Rangel] Accompanying you in your tour through Herrera and Los Santos provinces, we have heard you say in your speeches that it is necessary that the government be overthrown and to fight vote by vote with General Torrijos. Does this mean that you are willing to assume the presidency again?

[Answer] In asking that question, I think that they have instructed you very incorrectly. I am not here to fight with anyone, and least of all with a traitor. Secondly, I am not seeking the presidency. I am seeking the democracy which should exist here so that the people will select those whom they want.

[Question] And your people would consent to have another person represent them?

[Answer] I am sure that the people want democracy.

[Rangel] Thank you very much, Dr Arias. [end recording]

FOOD INDUSTRY WORKERS ISSUE DEMANDS TO GOVERNMENT

PA131704Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 12 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Leaders of the Industrial Federation of Food, Drink, Hotel and Related Workers [Federacion Industrial de Trabajadores de Alimentos, Bebidas, Hoteles y Afines--FITABHA] today made known to the national government a number of problems and labor demands which in their view should be promptly solved. The demands were made to Labor Vice Minister Jorge Ritter, who met with the leaders in his office. The demands include the abrogation of Law 95, a general nationwide wage increase, opposition to labor permits for foreign workers, preventive attachment of some companies and legal status for a union established in 1972 and another in 1977.

After receiving the list of demands from FITABHA--which is composed of 19 unions with more than 6,000 members--Vice Minister Ritter discussed some of the demands with the leaders and promised to take their demands to higher levels.

FITABHA is demanding a nationwide wage increase so that the country's majorities can cope with the increasing cost of living. It also calls for the elimination of Law 95 of 1976, since, according to FITABHA, the expected objectives of the law have not been achieved. It also asked that legal status be granted to the National Union of Bank Workers which was established in August 1972 and to the Industrial Union of Lumber Processing and Related Workers which was established in 1977. FITABHA also opposes the idea of the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry granting work permits to foreign workers since it believes that there are enough qualified unemployed workers in Panama.

The list of demands was delivered to the vice minister by leaders of FITABHA and the unions which comprise the federation.

BRIEFS

NEW CONEP BOARD--The National Council of Private Enterprise [CONEP] yesterday elected its new board of directors. It is made up of the following individuals: president: Pedro Rognoni, president of the Panamanian Industrialists Union; vice president: Vladimir de la Rosa, president of the Panamanian Construction Chamber; secretary: Fred Middleton, president of the Panamanian Association of Insurance Brokers; and treasurer: Rene Diaz, vice president of the Panamanian Banking Association. [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Jul 78 pp 1A, 4A PA]

COSTA RICA

INTERIOR MINISTER: LAW MUST BE MAINTAINED

PA172127Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jul 78 PA

[Text] This morning Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey reiterated that the public force will enforce law and order in the Guapiles region, where there was an outbreak of violence on Saturday. He reaffirmed that if he has to place one Civil Guard beside each citizen who wants to exercise his constitutional right to work, he is ready to do so.

He made the statement when newsmen asked him about future government actions in the Atlantic region.

He affirmed that the Civil Guard intervened when it received a request from 60 of the 75 workers at La Teresa plantation who wanted a guarantee that they would be able to continue to work.

You will now listen to Minister Echeverria Brealey, who reiterates the government position of enforcing law and order: [begin recording]

The government of the republic insists on restoring the principle of authority, law and order. We absolutely cannot permit intimidation and violence to be employed as means to solve real or fictitious problems. The Costa Rican who wants to work will have the protection of the authorities to do so whatever the cost. I stated last week in a press conference that if we have to go to the extreme of placing a guard beside each Costa Rican who wants to work in order to upset those who try to prevent this constitutional right from being exercised with freedom, we will do so. I repeat: Respect for law and order will have to be established regardless of the price that must be paid.

A similar situation is occurring with street vendors. I think it is important for the country to know it. There is a group of street vendors who are staging an alleged hunger strike in front of the cathedral. Their position is that they will remain on a hunger strike until the government allows them to sell their products in the downtown section of the city. They are demanding the impossible. There is a law of the republic which bans vendors from operating in the downtown section of the city. They can operate in the rest of the city and in the rest of the country, but they are forbidden from selling in the downtown section. What they are demanding is the derogation of the law, for the executive branch to derogate the law. Can you imagine what would happen if a group of businessmen went on a hunger strike until the government derogates the labor code? It is exactly the same situation, the same principle. What is being attempted through this deed--which is peaceful violence, if such a term can be used--is to get the government to ignore the existence of a law. Naturally, the government will not do that.

In regard to this--and I think it is very important for Costa Ricans--I have asked Vice Minister (Argueras) to form a commission made up of a deputy, a priest, a representative of one of the labor centrals and a member of the San Jose Municipality to find, jointly with the street vendors, the solution to the problem.

The government has suggested several solutions: portable markets and a market that will operate in the metropolitcan area--one day in Hatillo, another in Guadalupe, in Zapote and so forth. However, the street vendors have not accepted any of these solutions. But in another attempt to find a solution, we have asked, I repeat, Vice Minister (Argueras) to form this commission that will be headed by him and to get in contact today with the street vendors to try to find a solution. Whatever they request must necessarily be approved by the Legislative Assembly because as long as there is that law, the government will enforce it. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

LA PRENSA AGAIN VICTIM OF MACHINEGUN ATTACK

PA171405Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2250 GMT 16 Jul 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 16 Jul (ACAN-EFE)--The daily LA PRENSA again was the target at dawn today of a shooting incident, the third so far this year.

According to reports published by that newspaper in today's edition, three unidentified persons traveling in a light blue station wagon with license plate No 11465 fired machine-gun bursts at the front of the building, destroying the windows and blinds. The heavy-caliber bullets crashed through the wooden walls into the offices where Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, Jaime Chamorro Cardenal and sales department personnel were still working.

The assailants quickly fled the scene, avoiding the guards of the newspaper and the neighboring Bank of America building who witnessed the escape.

Shortly afterward a police patrol under the command of officer Maximiliano Perez arrived at the office to investigate.

GUERRILLA LEADER TALKS ABOUT FSLN'S FUTURE

PA151854Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 15 Jul 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Sandinist guerrilla German Pomares said yesterday that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] will not put away its arms even though the anti-Somoza Broad Front is being organized in Nicaragua. He said, however, that the FSLN, as a duty within the Nicaraguan people's political struggle, supports the formation of the civic group.

Pomares is in Panama as a political exile after having been able to obtain his release from jail in Honduras, where he was captured while trying to enter Nicaragua through (?Veredas).

CASTRO QUOTED ON CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA

PA1500319Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 8 Jul 78 p D 5 PA

[From "Valija Diplomatica" column]

[Text] The latest issue of the magazine "ANALISIS"--published by the Institute of International Affairs of our Foreign Ministry--reproduces the interview that Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro gave to "EPOCA."

In the introduction to the interview it is noted that there are between 23,000 and 25,000 Cuban soldiers in Angola, 17,000 in Ethiopia, and 1,000 in Guinea, Libya and the People's Republic of Congo, as well as detachments in Mozambique, Tanzania, Equatorial Guinea and Zambia.

"One of the characteristics of the Cuban revolution," Castro stated, "is its strong internationalistic spirit of support to revolutionary and liberation movements anywhere in the world...."

Castro said that this solidarity is nothing new: [It was evident] in Vietnam, in Korea.... He then referred to Africa, to the sending of troops to Algeria, and to the aid provided to the Palestine nation and Arab countries.

"I can even tell you," he noted, "that during the latest (Arab-Israeli) war, an Arab country asked us to help, and we did, in the form of medical teams and men."

[Interviewer] "Can you tell us what country that was?"

[Castro] "Yes, I can. It is no secret; It was Syria. We also offered material cooperation and military aid to the people of Guinea-Bissau during their struggle for independence so that they could be in better position to struggle against Portuguese colonialism. We have helped the Angolan people since the beginning of their struggle for independence...."

In answer to another question, Fidel Castro stated:

"Whoever says that we take these actions to comply with Soviet orders is telling a filthy lie.... We take those actions on our own...."

Regarding the most important changes that have taken place in the world in the past 20 years, the Cuban prime minister said:

"...The correlation of forces has improved for the socialist and progressive nations. There have been tragic events such as the deep division in the socialist camp as a result of China's policies. However, in spite of this, the correlation of forces has changed in favor of socialism."

ARMANDO HART GIVES RECEPTION FOR WRITER

FL171430Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Jul 78 FL

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, minister of culture and member of the PCC Politburo, has given a reception in honor of Cuban writer Alejo Carpentier on the occasion of his having been awarded the Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra prize, the highest literary award bestowed in Spain.

JOURNALISTS UNION ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED

FL172217Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Jul 78 FL

[Text] Chaired by PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Antonio Perez Herrero and Central Committee member Fernando Vecino Alegret, an event was held at the headquarters of the Union of Cuban Journalists to mark the organization's 15th anniversary. During the event the (Julius Fuschi) medal of the International Organization of Journalists [IOJ] was presented to Angel Guerra, director of the magazine BOHEMIA, on the occasion of the publication's 70th founding anniversary. In addition founding members of the IOJ were presented diplomas on behalf of their respective work centers.

In his closing remarks, Higher Education Minister Fernando Vecino Alegret stated that the party has always recognized the value and importance of journalists in our society for the political and ideological nature of their profession. The responsibility of journalists in socialism is extraordinarily great, he noted.

NEW AMBASSADORS NAMED FOR ETHIOPIA, PERU

FL141246Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1226 GMT 14 Jul 78 FL

[Text] The Council of State has designated Comrade Buenaventura Reyes Acosta as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the Government of Socialist Ethiopia. Comrade Reyes Acosta is an official at the Cuban Foreign Ministry's Western Europe directorate.

In addition, the Council of State has designated Comrade Luis Karakadze Berrayarza as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the Government of the Republic of Peru. Comrade Karakadze had held the position of deputy minister at our country's Chemical Industry Ministry.

FIDEL CASTRO ATTENDS IRAQI EMBASSY RECEPTION

FL181110Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 18 Jul 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Council of State and government, last night attended the reception given by Anwar Sabri, ambassador of the Republic of Iraq, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the progressive revolution of 17 July 1968 and the 20th Anniversary of the overthrow of the monarchy, that country's national holiday. During the ceremony Fidel chatted with the ambassador of the friendly Arab country and a group of Iraqi physicians who are in Cuba attending a postgraduate course. Others present were Carlos Rafel Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, both members of the PCC Central Committee Politburo; PCC Secretariat member Raul Garcia Pelaez; other Central Committee members; ministers; leaders of mass and political organizations; ranking officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

BALAGUER WARNS AGAINST ANTI-PRD COUP

PA150325Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1008 GMT 14 Jul 78 PA

[By Luis Ovidio Sigaran]

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 14 Jul (LATIN)--President Joaquin Balaguer last night endorsed a Central Electoral Board decision granting four Senate seats to his Reformist Party (PR). According to him, the decision puts an end to a political crisis which, if prolonged, "could have seriously affected the national economy" and endangered the country's constitutional system.

The Dominican president, who must turn over power on 16 August, said that the 6-week crisis had been "unleashed by the military commands' unilateral decision to interrupt the votecount on 17 May." This was the first time that Balaguer voiced any criticism and designated responsibilities in connection with that development, which has been regarded as the first step toward a coup. Balaguer insisted that fraud had been committed to the detriment of the PR and specifically referred to the behavior displayed by the personnel in the electronics department and in other Electoral Board bodies. According to investigations conducted in that department by two Chilean experts contracted by the government, no irregularities involving the lists of voters were committed.

Balaguer, nonetheless, said last night that the deceit had been the work of a "veritable artist in electoral fraud" who, while making believe that the PR was winning the elections, "was manipulating the votes in the polls the way he wanted." He also warned the victorious Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) about the possibility of a coup. Regarding this, he said: "It is possible--who can doubt it--that many of the sectors which today support the PRD are, as in 1963, already underhandedly preparing the mortal step by which they will interrupt the PRD's reign."

He said that in order to prevent this and to preserve constitutionality the PRD needs the support of another independent political force with good intentions identified with the country's need for profound changes in its political and social structures.

In his first speech to the country in 6 weeks, Balaguer offered to cooperate with the president-elect and promised to work alongside him for the good of the country and to resolve the serious problems that will confront the nation in a future that at present does not look very bright.

He then reminded the PRD that there is a cooperation pact between it and the PR. On the basis of this pact, he said, the PR will "unreservedly support all the reforms that the PRD may wish to introduce into the constitution aimed at guaranteeing or improving our institutional order as a measure of a civilized society."

In a clear reference to PRD Secretary General Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, he remarked that the PRD is a mass party that more or less blindly obeys "certain political leaders who throughout their lives have courted violence" and is seriously committed to international trends that might be seriously damaging to our country's preservation as a democratic and Christian society. Obviously, Balaguer was referring to the Socialist International which appointed Pena Gomez its secretary for Latin America.

He also hinted that the "merry" Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares, who is the Socialist International's director, might hold prejudicial views toward the country.

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